



City of Arts & Innovation

PRESS RELEASE

Police Department
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MULTI-STATE PHONE SCAM ARTISTS ARRESTED BY RIVERSIDE POLICE

Riverside, CA – In September, 2014, a gas station/convenience store located in Riverside fell victim to a phone scam. In this instance, the scam artists began the crime by sending one of the suspects into the store to inquire about employment and the identification of the store's manager. The suspect then shared the information with accomplices. A second suspect later called the business posing as an auditor from the store's corporate office. The store employee was told that an audit is being conducted as a result of an embezzlement case, and if the employee did not cooperate with the audit the employee could face discipline. While still on the phone the suspect directed the employee to count all the currency, and advised the employee that another corporate employee would arrive to collect the currency. The suspect kept the employee on the phone until the third suspect arrived to collect the currency.

During the course of this investigation, Riverside detectives learned that the same suspects had committed similar crimes in the states of Colorado, Idaho, Utah, Washington, Arizona, California, Kentucky and Indiana. Riverside detectives coordinated their efforts with the Colorado Department of Corrections in helping to locate the suspects.



On October 9, 2014, detectives from the Riverside Police Department arrested three suspects in Palm Springs, CA. Detectives were also successful in seizing evidence linking the suspects to multiple thefts in various states. All three suspects were also wanted in the state of Colorado for a similar scam and considered fugitives from Justice. The suspects arrested were identified as: Jerry Davies, 40 years, from Silt Colorado, Sean Acree, 18 years, from Cincinnati, Ohio, and Katherine Ferneding, 28 years, Lakeside Park, Kentucky.

If you have additional information concerning this investigation and/or crimes similar in nature, you are encouraged to contact case agent Detective Jeffrey Acosta at (951) 826-8717.

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